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PROGRAM Morning with Charles Kuralt and Diane Sawyer STATION WDVM TV  
CBS Network

DATE February 5, 1982 7:00 AM CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT Scientific Contact Between East and West

CHARLES KURALT: One consequence of President Reagan's sanctions against the Soviet Union has been a reduction in scientific contact between experts of East and West. There have been several cases of American universities being ordered to shut their doors in the faces of Soviet visitors.

This policy has provoked a heated debate. Barry Peterson reports.

BARRY PETERSON: In this research laboratory at Stanford University, a mechanical arm performs rudimentary functions, part of a growing body of knowledge about robots and their uses.

Nikolay Umnov, a Soviet specialist in robotics and walking machines planned to visit Stanford but the State Department slapped restrictions on his tour. No access to programming techniques. No access to any projects funded by the Defense Department. No access to private industry. In a huff, Stamford cancelled the Russian's visit.

DAVID KENNEDY, PRESIDENT, STANFORD UNIVERSITY: We would have had to guarantee that a Soviet scientist wouldn't have access to conversations with industry people. Well, we're not going to follow him around the streets after he's finished his visit here to make sure that he doesn't run into somebody from industry. We can't do that.

PETERSON: Stanford officials say the issue here runs to the very heart of academic freedom. The traditional free and lively exchange of information and ideas.

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University researchers have a target of a get tough policy by the Reagan Administration, which is concerned about a loss of this nation's technological edge. We give it away by publishing and discussing it, complains one official. Inman put it bluntly.

In a recent speech, CIA Deputy Director Admiral Bobby Inman put it bluntly.

Censor yourselves, he told a gathering of scientists. Adding, quote: "the tides are moving and moving fast toward legislative solutions that, in fact, are likely to be more restrictive, not less than the voluntary."

This Russian film, recently sent to an American scientist, shows how magnetics can be used in industry. Another Russian film details a six-legged creature. A classic work in developing a theory for machines that can walk. We get as well as give, says one American scientist.

And, argue some, freedom gives American science its edge.

ROBERT ROSENWIG, VP, STANFORD UNIVERSITY: Errors can get checked. Mediocrity can be discovered. And excellence can be rewarded. And all of those are very important to stimulating creativity. That's what makes us go, that what makes us different and better than them.

PETERSON: Ironically, the Russians are well ahead of the Americans in robot research. Professor Bernard Ross, who runs this lab, worries about a return to the atmosphere of the Cold War, us against them.

PROF. BERNARD ROSS: People when they go to scientific meetings tend to stay more in their national groups, rather than mixing. There is a chilling tone and it's started.

PETERSON: Barry Peterson, CBS News, Palo Alto, California.